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23 MAR 1976

DD/S&T-1381-76

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Administration
FROM: Associate Deputy Director for Science and Technology
SUBJECT: Parapsychology Research
REFERENCE: Memorandum from A/DDA to ADD/S&T dated 23 February 1976, Subject: SRI Report on Perceptual Augmentation

1. Because you have expressed an interest, as a Directorate, in the subject of parapsychology, I would like to outline our current research plans in this area.

2. As you may know, we elected not to continue the SRI research project because of its substantial cost and because of the generally negative findings in the physiological portion of the research. For example, a promising earlier correlation between brain wave patterns and the on-off status of a hidden light inside a screen room was not substantiated by the most recent study. The operationally oriented portion of the SRI work did yield some very interesting findings. Unfortunately, these were open to question because of procedural shortcomings, such as the lack of controls, lack of predetermined criteria for "hits," failure to follow accepted double blind methodology, and the involvement of experimental team members themselves as subjects.

3. We do agree that the field requires close observation, however, until we can identify promising and potentially useful research alternatives. We have programmed a significant survey project for FY-77 and a follow-on for FY-78. The FY-77 work will include an in-depth review of the recent literature, together with visits to laboratories doing significant research in the field. The contractor will be a reputable scientist who holds neither a position of flat rejection nor an outright espousal of paranormal phenomena

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generally. At the same time we will attempt to determine internal criteria as to what types and levels of paranormal performance would be considered important to the Agency if they could be demonstrated.

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